



# MEMA REPORTS

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MEMA REPORTS is a monthly newsletter produced by the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) to help keep the Public Safety Community of Massachusetts better informed about the day's Emergency Management issues. MEMA REPORTS also appears on the MEMA website: [www.mass.gov/mema](http://www.mass.gov/mema).

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## **MEMA Assists Town of Concord After EF-1 Tornado**

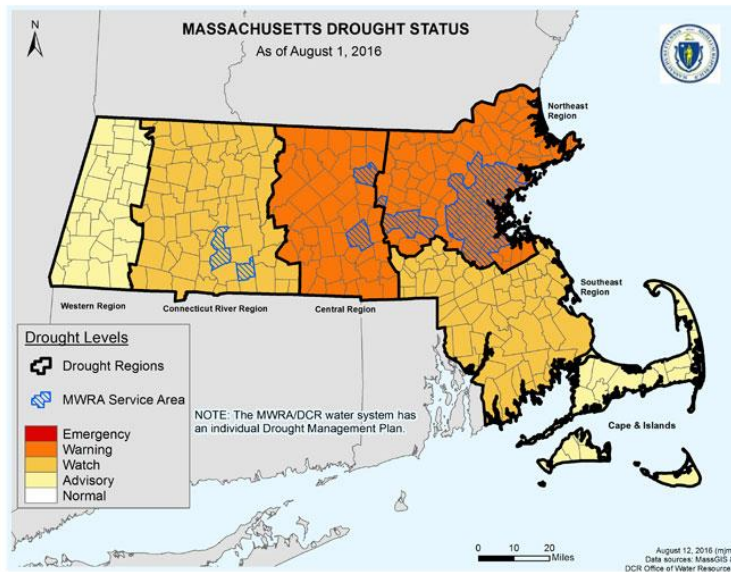
Early on the morning of August 22<sup>nd</sup>, an EF-1 tornado struck Concord. The tornado had estimated winds of 100 mph, and was 1/2 mile long and 400 yards wide. While the tornado caused damage to 39 homes, only one home suffered significant structural damage and there were no injuries. MEMA staff responded to Concord to support local public safety agencies, brought MEMA's mobile operations center to the staging area, and coordinated the state's response. The tornado warning issued by the National Weather Service around 3 AM alerted cell phones in the warning area using the Wireless Emergency Alerts system and Massachusetts Alerts (MEMA's free app) which allowed people about 15 minutes of lead time to take shelter and stay safe. On Monday afternoon, Governor Baker and Lieutenant Governor Polito toured the impacted area and met with local officials.



## **Governor Baker Proclaims September 'Emergency Preparedness Month'**

In an effort to enhance awareness of the importance of emergency preparedness for individuals and families, Governor Charlie Baker has [proclaimed September to be 'Emergency Preparedness Month'](#) in the Commonwealth. Working with the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS) and the Department of Public Health (DPH), the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) is promoting public preparedness and safety throughout the month. MEMA is promoting four preparedness messages during Emergency Preparedness Month: 1) [Be Informed](#), 2) [Develop a Plan](#), 3) [Build a Kit](#), and 4) [Get Involved](#). During September, MEMA is providing daily emergency preparedness tips on the agency's [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) accounts, digital billboards along highways across the state will feature preparedness signs, and MEMA will support various emergency preparedness events and fairs.

## **Drought Warning, Watch, Advisory Issued**



Following five continuous months of unusually dry weather, on August 12<sup>th</sup>, the Commonwealth's [Drought Management Task Force](#) announced a Drought Warning for Central and Northeast Massachusetts, up from a Drought Watch in July; a Drought Watch for Southeast Massachusetts and the Connecticut River Valley, up from a Drought Advisory in July; and a Drought Advisory for Western Massachusetts and the Cape and Islands. The declaration was the result of a recommendation issued from a recent meeting of the Task Force, which is comprised of state, federal and local officials and is led jointly by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) and MEMA. The Warning, Watch, and Advisory will remain in

effect until water levels return to normal in the affected regions.

The state continues to intensely monitor and assess the drought situation, and environmental and agricultural impacts, and asks the public to be mindful of the amount of water they are using, and to limit outdoor water use to ensure essential needs such as drinking water, fire protection, and crop hydration are being met. For additional details, go to <http://www.mass.gov/eea/pr-2016/drought-warning-watch-advisory-issued.html>.

## **Hurricane Season Lasts Through November 30<sup>th</sup>**

While the Atlantic Hurricane Season began June 1st, most tropical storm systems that have impacted New England have struck during the months of August and September. It is important for Massachusetts residents to be prepared before a hurricane or tropical storm approaches. Until the end of hurricane season, MEMA will continue to feature hurricane preparedness topics on our [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) accounts, on the [MEMA website](#) and on digital billboards across the state. We ask you to join us in encouraging residents and businesses of Massachusetts to prepare for hurricanes and tropical storms by determining if they live or work in a [hurricane evacuation zone](#), making [family emergency plans](#), building an [emergency kit](#), and staying [informed](#).



## **Register For the 2016 Great Northeast Shakeout**

At 10:20 a.m. on October 20, 2016, millions of people will participate in the [Drop, Cover, and Hold On worldwide drill](#) to practice how to protect themselves if an earthquake occurs. You are invited to join them by participating in the 2016 *Great NorthEast ShakeOut!* Last year more than 43 million people were registered in *Great ShakeOut* earthquake drills worldwide. So far this year, over 19 million individuals have registered worldwide and over 200,000 have registered for this year's *Great NorthEast ShakeOut*. Participating is a great way for your family or organization to be prepared to survive and recover quickly from large earthquakes. This is the fourth year that the Northeast states have been organized as an Official ShakeOut Region. FEMA and state emergency management agencies are



coordinating recruitment across the entire region. More details can be found at <http://shakeout.org/northeast/>.

### **MEMA PIO Peter Judge Retires**

On August 19<sup>th</sup>, MEMA's Public Information Officer, Peter Judge, retired after 17 years at MEMA. Peter originally started with MEMA in 1999 to assist with "Y2K" preparations and has been the face and voice of MEMA ever since. Peter kept the residents of Massachusetts informed in both good times and during major disasters. His coworkers at MEMA and all those who interacted with Peter over the years wish Peter a long, healthy, and happy retirement – he will be missed!



### **New Ethanol Response Planning and Guidance Documents Available**

As the infrastructure for the storage and transportation of ethanol continues to expand throughout Massachusetts, emergency managers and first responders must be aware of the ethanol being stored and/or transported within their communities, as well as the potential for managing incidents involving large volumes or high concentrations of ethanol. Pursuant to a directive from the Legislature, MEMA, in collaboration with a number of jurisdictions, agencies and disciplines, and supported by a vendor, recently completed a lengthy planning initiative that produced the following documents and products:

- Statewide Large Volume/High Concentration Ethanol Response Plan
- Large Volume/High Concentration Ethanol Incident Response Planning Guide
- Inventory of AR-AFF Foam Supplies and Capabilities
- Ethanol Incident Response Quick Reference Guide
- Interactive Web Map of Ethanol Transportation Routes

These documents and products can be found on the "State Emergency Plans" section of MEMA's website: <http://www.mass.gov/eopss/agencies/mema/resources/plans/>

### **MEMA Provides Grant Funds to Local CERT and VIPS Groups**

MEMA, via FFY 2015 FEMA State Homeland Security Program grant funds, will be providing \$149,265.65 to 44 Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) and three Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) groups. These funds will be used to build and sustain local CERT and VIPS capabilities and capacities. Through their work, these volunteer groups help to make communities safer, stronger, and better prepared to respond to the threats of terrorism, crime, public health issues and disasters of all kinds.

### **WebEOC**

MEMA's WebEOC has been moved to Intermedix's hosting environment. All users can access WebEOC using the new url: <https://mema.webeocasp.com/>

### **MEMA Field Deployment Highlights**

During the month of August, MEMA utilized field assets and personnel to support the following events across the Commonwealth:

- Aug 1st-4th: MEMA supported Westport and multiple state and local officials during their animal rescue/animal cruelty investigation. The Mobile Emergency Operations Center (MEOC) MEOC served as a command post for the operations.

- Aug 5th-7<sup>th</sup>: MEMA supported Sturbridge, Bourne and MetroLEC during the Pan Mass Challenge. Communications support, logistics support and the MEOC were utilized throughout the 2-day event to enhance public safety capabilities for the communities involved.
- Aug 6th: MEMA supported Ipswich during the Boston Pops at Castle Hill event. The MEOC was utilized as a command post for the event.
- Aug 13th: MEMA supported Southbridge during their Bicentennial Fireworks. The MEOC was utilized as a command post for the event.
- Aug 24th-28th: MEMA supported Cummington during their annual fair. The Mobile Communications Support Trailer (MCST) and cache radios provided communications support for the event.

### **MEMA Training Update**

During the month of August, MEMA's Training and Exercise Unit hosted 81 students in 3 courses:

- *ICS-300 Incident Command System in North Attleboro*
- *MGT-361 Managing Critical Incidents for Higher Education at Westfield State University*
- *LASER Active Shooter in Milford*

To date, in 2016, 1,510 students have taken 64 separate MEMA supported classes. For additional information about MEMA Training opportunities go to: [www.mass.gov/mema](http://www.mass.gov/mema).

### **Latest Federal Disaster Assistance Totals for the 2015 Blizzard**

The Disaster Assistance and Snow Assistance process for local communities, state agencies, and eligible private non-profits for the January 26-28, 2015 Blizzard continues to advance. As of September 2, 2016, 983 Project Worksheets (PWs) have been obligated by FEMA, totaling more than \$65.8M in federal aid reimbursements to local communities, state agencies, and eligible private non-profits (75% of the \$87.1M eligible project costs).

### **MEMA'S Mission Statement**

MEMA is the state agency charged with ensuring the state is prepared to withstand, respond to, and recover from all types of emergencies and disasters, including natural hazards, accidents, deliberate attacks, and technological and infrastructure failures. MEMA is committed to an all hazards approach to emergency management. By building and sustaining effective partnerships with federal, state and local government agencies, and with the private sector - individuals, families, non-profits, and businesses - MEMA ensures the Commonwealth's ability to rapidly recover from large and small disasters by assessing and mitigating threats and hazards, enhancing preparedness, coordinating response operations, and strengthening our capacity to rebuild and recover.

### **Follow MEMA and Get Important Emergency Information**

**Twitter** - [www.twitter.com/MassEMA](https://twitter.com/MassEMA); **Facebook** - [www.facebook.com/MassachusettsEMA](https://www.facebook.com/MassachusettsEMA);  
**YouTube** - [www.youtube.com/MassachusettsEMA](https://www.youtube.com/MassachusettsEMA); **MEMA Website** - [www.mass.gov/mema](http://www.mass.gov/mema);  
**Massachusetts Alerts app** - [www.mass.gov/mema/mobileapp](http://www.mass.gov/mema/mobileapp)

